OPEN ARMS · P.O. BOX 845 · MISHAWAKA · INDIANA · 46546

DECEMBER VOL. 6 NUMBER 11

OPEN ARMS

1994

· · · · · · MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER · · · · · ·

HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE

As Halloween drew closer, so did the first annual Lesbo Community hayride. My phone was a buzz, well actual the answering machine. I hate talking to those machines, but how would we ever communicate without them. Anyway, keeping track of the reservations was the major challenge. In the first two weeks there were too few calls, then all of a sudden we needed two wagons, then chaos--"Sorry, we can't come,"--"Can we bring four friends?"--"I'm not feeling well," or "By the way, only two of the five of us will be able to go." By the time to leave the house on Friday came, I didn't know who was going to show or what to expect.

The hayride driver was flexible, the weather was great with a little nip in the air, and very few clouds in the sky to hide the moon. It was time to load the wagon and with a few moans and groans from the over 40 group, we were off. Sue started us off with a story that each person was to add on to or pass. I don't think the story is repeatable, but to hit a few highlights--There was a couple walking towards a lake when they heard a noise in the distance. As they got closer, they saw a group of women dancing around a campfire. The number of women kept growing and it ended up in the bedroom. Guess you had to be there to find out how it ended.

We then discovered none of us are ready to quit our day jobs for the music circuit. Actually the singing wasn't bad, but finding songs known to the wide age spread attending was difficult. Deb pitched in with TV theme songs and a good time was had singing *Mr. Ed, Brady Bunch, Green Acres, Gilligans Island, etc.* The hour passed quickly and we arrived back to a blazing bonfire. It didn't take long to fill the table with good food and get the dogs on the fire to roast. The challenge came in eating with smoke in your eyes, but there was so much beauty, the smoke did not know which way to go. One thing for sure, with all the pies, cookies, and s'mores, there was no sweet tooth left unsatisfied.

Jackie had the catch of the evening when she caught my plate after I tipped the bench and went sliding to the ground. There were lots of good conversation and entertainment as one pyromaniac attempted to catch the grass on fire with a hot dog stick. (We missed you Sherri.) It appeared all 23 women attending had a fun time, and we hope to see more of you there next year.

--Marcia

MABLE, MABLE, SET THE TABLE

SUGAR AND SPICE PECANS

1 egg white
1 Tablespoon water
1 cup sugar
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 pound pecan halves

Beat egg white and water until frothy (not stiff). Stir in sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Add pecans and stir well, until pecans are completely coated. Spread nuts on a large baking sheet and bake in a 200 degree oven for 45 min., stirring every 15 min. Remove from oven when "dry" and toasty. When cool, store in air tight container.

The sugar and spice pecans are a great appetizer along with apple wedges, grapes, cheese, and crackers.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT
IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL
with Amanda Donahoe
If you like Amanda, you will be in for a real thrill seeing her in this role.
&
BLIND SPOT
with Joanne Woodward.

Gloria and Julie's
Call for directions: (616)-684-4011

Friday, Dec. 9th
7:00 p.m.

3RD FRIDAY OUT
Calamity Jane's Country Cafe
2828 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka
7:00 p.m.
For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday, Dec. 14th, at (219)-291-5837

POTLUCK/GAMENIGHT
Saturday, Dec. 10th
5:00 p.m. til ?
Eat promptly at 6:00 p.m.
Fro info and directions, call: 287-4548
There will be an optional gift exchange. To participate, bring a $5.00 gift to exchange.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.
For info, write:
LSG
P.O.
Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING
The deadline for submissions for the January *Open Arms* is December 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Mary, Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after December 10th may not be published in the January newsletter.
Newsletter meeting: Sunday, December 11th, 1994. Call 271-0338 for directions.

EVENTS COORDINATORS
Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837
Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-684-4011
Game Night:
Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE
If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

MISSION STATEMENT
Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Mary	(219)-234-5986
Sheree	(616)-684-6365
Kaye & Marcia	(219)-271-0338
Advertising:	Kaye & Marcia
Subscriptions:	Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY
We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

OPEN ARMS NEEDS NEW BLOOD

No, this is not an offshoot of the Vampire movie thing, but with the new year we need new workers, new energy on the O.A. staff. Most of the current staff have been here for 2 years, some for 4 years and we are approaching burnout. We want to try to avoid a situation in which most of our staff gets burned out at the same time and we face a major crisis. Some of us are leaving, most of us are staying but we have an immediate need for new blood.

If you are at all interested, come to the January 15th Open Arms meeting at Kaye and Marcia's at 6:30 p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.

- O.A. Staff

NEWS NOTES

---Write your Congressperson about ENDA--the Employment Non-discrimination Act-- which would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation on the federal level. Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202)-224-3121 and give your zip code so the operator will connect you with your Congressperson's office.

---The National Center for Lesbian Rights has an Advice and Counseling Line to assist wimin with legal matters related to their sexual orientation, particularly in the areas of custody, adoption, donor insemination, partnership protection and benefits, employment, and immigration. Intake Counselors, who are law clerks working for NCLR, are available on the line daily. Call (415)-392-6257.

---For general information about the NCLR use America ON Line at: NCLR. From other destinations on the Internet, email can be sent to : NCLR@AOL.COM. For information about the Lesbians of Color Project, send an email to steph nclr, on America On Line, or steph nclr@AOL.COM, on the Internet.

---Trial courts in Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. recently denied lesbian co-parents the right to adopt a child because the two parents were not married.

---The only good news from the November elections was that the anti-homosexual amendments in Idaho and Oregon were defeated. However, in Alachua County, Alabama, the voters repealed the sexual orientation civil rights law and prohibited such protections in the future.

ATTENTION SOFTBALL PLAYERS

January is the time for teams to register for the South Bend summer Slo-Pitch Softball League. Lots of wimin expressed an interest in playing for Whistle Stop in the summer of '95 and if the interest is still there, we will try to get a second team into the South Bend League.

If there is enough interest for two teams **and** the second team is selected by the Parks & Rec. Dept to play in a league, Whistle Stop will be a team for rookies and those who care more about socializing than competing. The second, or new, team will be for the more competitive players and will have to select a new name and purchase new uniforms.

The wimin who played on the Whistle Stop team in '94 will be assured of a spot on the team in '95 if there is only one team and the following information is received by the due date.

If you are interested in playing on either team in '95, send the following information to: Softball, P.O. Box 1281, Niles, MI 49120.

1. Name, address and home phone number

2. Which team you are interested in playing on?

Because we sponsor ourselves, each player will be required to send $20.00 with the above information. If you decide not to play or the second team does not get into a league, your deposit will be refunded. This information must be received by January 15th, 1995.

IN THE LIFE NEEDS MONEY

One of our Open Arms staffers was contacted by phone recently and asked to contribute money to keep In The Life (the Lesbian/Gay sitcom aired on some PBS stations) on TV. The caller was from New York City and stated the show would be aired on PBS in NYC beginning Nov. 27th. It was not clear whether donations would enable the WTTW in Chicago to air the program. Send inquiries or donations to:

IN THE LIFE
30 W. 26th St.
NY, NY 10001

A GLITCH IN OUR SYSTEM

Two people have contacted us stating they renewed their subscription but did not continue to receive Open Arms. Our apologies to these women and to any others in a similar situation. We have discovered the problem in our system and hope we have corrected it, but in the meantime if anyone tells you they should be getting O.A. but aren't, please ask then to contact a staff member.

IN PARTICULAR we are looking for the name of the woman who resubscribed and noted on her renewal form that she thanked the Staff for the improvement in O.A. this year and she would like to see an Over-40 Group started.

O.A. Staff.

MOTHER CHARGED IN DEATHS CAUSED BY DRUNKEN FATHER

San Marcos, TX--Gregory Cook decided to take his two daughters to breakfast, starting the car after one of the girls apparently blew into a breath-analyzing device that had been installed to keep him from driving drunk.

Their car skidded into a waste-water treatment pond, drowning Cook and the girls, aged 8 and 10.

A grand jury indicted the youngsters' mother for not stopping the girls from riding with their intoxicated father. She could get up to life in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors said the mother knew her ex-husband had been drinking and was not capable of driving safely.

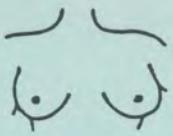
The mother knew that one of her children would have to blow into the apparatus to get the car running.--info South Bend Tribune

GLADD MEDIA WATCH
Kiss and Tell

The seasonal finale of *Melrose Place* was originally filmed showing gay character Matt Fielding kissing another man goodbye at the end of their first date. The scene was cut. The roster of such routinely censored scenes is growing. On *Picket Fences* the picture faded as two young women prepared to kiss. On *Northern Exposure* the couple at a gay wedding hugged onscreen but kissed off camera. Only *Roseanne* has come close to actually showing a same-sex kiss.

The decision to censor a lesbian or gay kiss is made by the Standards and Practices Departments at the networks. These departments have to come to rely on a bizarre and indefensible standard that promotes violence among men and women, but not love: two men can kill but not kiss each other.

Remind Fox to resist the temptations of homophobic hate and encourage the network to do what others have not, to create lesbian and gay characters that are capable of love. Write to Lucie Salhany, President, FOX Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.--info OUT



Lesbian Health Network

The Action Plan is bold — but it is also overwhelming, given the paucity of lesbian health advocates. That is why NCLR has compiled the Lesbian Health Network, a mailing list of women and men willing to increase visibility and sensitivity to lesbian health issues. We will depend on members of this network to respond to requests to write letters, make phone calls, or otherwise advocate on behalf of lesbian health.

We publish and distribute a newsletter to the Network which communicates activities of lesbian health service providers and activists around the country.

Five Recent Victories

The Lesbian Health Network's diligent activities have yielded several successes. Five significant new developments are:

- The National Institutes of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health added lesbians to the list of populations included in supplemental proposals for funding. This allows researchers to apply for funding for outreach efforts which include lesbians as subjects.
- The CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program, which funds all fifty states to develop and provide free or low-cost mammogram and pap smear programs, agreed to include lesbians in their target populations and to assist states in developing outreach programs.
- A multi-racial and -ethnic work group was convened by the United States Center for Substance Abuse Treatment to find ways to increase the funding of culturally competent services, as well as increase lesbians' and gays' access to culturally competent substance abuse services.
- The Office on Women's Health, in the Secretary of Health's Office, has included information about lesbian health concerns in a new publication called "Women's Health Issues."
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Mental Health co-sponsored a workshop about suicide to identify gaps in knowledge about lesbian, gay and bisexual youth suicide.
- Six departments in Public Health Service and the National AIDS Policy Office met with representatives of the first Lesbian Health Roundtable to learn more about lesbian and bisexual women's health issues.

To become a member of the Lesbian Health Network or to offer an item for the newsletter; please contact the NCLR Public Policy Project in the New York office.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

DEC. 3 - 6th Annual **Ft. Wayne GAY/LESBIAN DINNER DANCE**. Grand Wayne Center. Tickets $25. Reservation deadline 11/28. No tickets sold at door. For info call (219) 744-1144.

DEC. 3 - **SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER** - Lesbian Comedienne. 7:30 & 10:30 p.m. The Madame Walker Theatre, Indianapolis. Call Branching Out Productions, (317) 637-2906 or 574-0615 for tickets, $18 in advance.

DEC. 8 - **SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER** - in Chicago. 7:30 & 10:00 p.m. Park West, 322 Armitage, Chicago. Produced by Branching Out Productions, (312) 559-1212 for tickets, $18 in advance.

DEC. 10 - **MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 13TH ANNUAL MID-WINTERS CRAFTS FESTIVAL** - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Chicago time. Over 30 merchants and artisans with women-made crafts. 1545 W. Morse, Chicago. (312) 988-4631.

DEC. 10 - **KAREN WILLIAMS** - Fantastically Funny Lesbian Comic - 8:30-11 p.m. as the finale to Mountain Moving Coffeehouse's Festival.

DEC. 10 - **INDIANAPOLIS WOMEN'S CHORUS** - First concert ever! Unitarian Universalist Church, 615 W. 43rd St., Indy. (317) 931-9464 for ticket info and times.

DEC. 17 - **LESBIAN HEALTH/LESBIAN HEALING** - 8:30 p.m. - Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, 1545 W. Morse, Chicago. An evening designed to celebrate how we take care of ourselves. **Witches Broom Decorating Workshop** from 6:30-8p.m. facilitated by Penny Webster. Space limited. Pre-register by calling Gina (312) 271-4145.

1995

APR. 9-16 - **CARIBBEAN CRUISE** on the S.S. Seabreeze - Exclusively for Women - Fares from $795. For more information contact OLIVIA Cruises and Resorts (800) 631-6277.

THE COURT OF FRIENDS
(A Singles Service)

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles,MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.) Your identity will be kept confidential...you will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue of OPEN ARMS.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box. Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!!!

COURT OF FRIENDS
SINGLES

#25...Single white female, 40, 5'5", and 128 lbs. Would like to meet female, 30-50, for fun and possible serious relationship. I drink and smoke, but don't do drugs. Butches O.K., and kids O.K. No heavies and no one over 5'5", please. Also, no Bi's.

#26...Hi, 56 years old, full figured, gray hair, blue eyes. I enjoy camping, playing cards, long walks, movies, watching sports. Looking for honest, sense of humor, average looks...

#27...24..Creative, outgoing. Enjoy good humor, good company, and many interests. Seeking single, 20-32, moving forward and enjoying what life is offering you.

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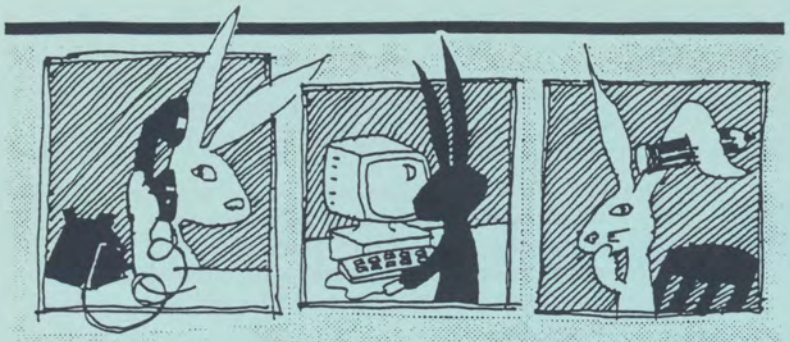

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MEASURE OF PROTECTION

Here is a partial list of local businesses, institutions and cities where discrimination based on sexual orientation is prohibited either by ordinance or by inclusion in human rights statements. Some provide penalties and a complaint process.

- General Motors Corp.
- AT&T
- IBM
- TRW
- Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.
- Honeywell Inc.
- Sears, Roebuck & Co.
- JC Penney
- Steelcase
- Oakland University provides coverage for professors and other staff, but not for students.
- University of Michigan
- Western Michigan University
- Wayne State University
- Michigan State University

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low ($10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.

DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES

Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby.

Call Susan for weekend, mid-week, weekly visits at (616) 857-2586.

MARY P. BOTTUM

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Mishawaka, IN 46545

New! Opening in June...a new women's guesthouse!
Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.

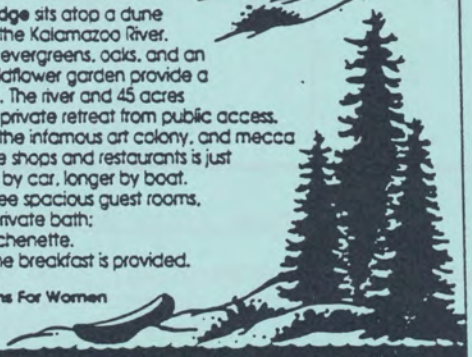
Saugatuck on the river...

DEERPATH LODGE

... an enchanting retreat

Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women



For Reservations & Information:
P.O Box 849 Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
1-616-857-DEER

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December 1994

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 94 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		January 95 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3
4	5	6 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	7 NOW Meeting St. Joe Libr 7:oo p.m.	8	9 Video Night Niles 7:00 p.m.	10 Potluck/ Gamenight 5:00 p.m.
11 Open Arms Mtg 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	14 Reservations due for 3rd Friday Out	15	16 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	17
18	19	20 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23 SARAH WALKER's Birthday - (WALKER THEATER IN INDY IS NAMED FOR HER)	24
25	26	27 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30	31

SEEKING WOMEN WHO HAVE SELF-MUTILATED: To answer questionnaire for book by, for and about us. Longer submissions welcome. We aren't alone. This book is to begin to tell our stories of hope and healing. Send your address. Confidential. Kay Virago, 5716 Sixth Ave South, Birmingham, AL 35212.

LESBIAN DIRECTOR OF DOCUMENTARIES: calling for letters from battered and battering lesbians (only) about your experiences as battered and battering lesbians. All letters will be confidential, names and addresses not necessary. Letters will not be returned. Please send letters to Ree McSween, PO Box 628, Arcata, CA 95521-0628.

WHO READ MY NOVEL "FREE RIDE" published by Firebrand Books. If you want to read the ending the way I intended it, send SASE to Marilyn Gayle, Rt 11 Box 326A-E, Santa Fe, NM 87501 and I'll send you a copy.

Same Time Every Month

1st Wednesday - **NOW** Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Main Library, Corner of Main and Wayne, South Bend. Call 288-7123 for info.

4th Sunday - **P-FLAG** Meeting 2-4 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Rd., South Bend. Call Nancy at 277-2684 for more info.

Subscription for Open Arms - $10.00/year

Name_____

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Telephone Number_____

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